

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

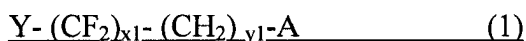
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

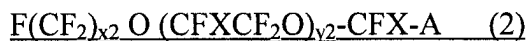
1. (currently amended): A method of purifying a treatment target substance containing a fluorine-containing surfactant and water comprising carrying out a which comprises removing treatment of a at least part of the fluorine-containing surfactant from said treatment target substance by bringing contacting said treatment target substance-containing said fluorine-containing surfactant into contact with a substance [A] comprising carbon dioxide,

wherein said substance [A] is a gas under standard conditions (10^5 Pa, 0 °C),

said fluorine-containing surfactant is an ether oxygen-free anionic compound represented by the general formula (1):



wherein Y represents H or F, x1 represents an integer of 4 to 13, y1 represents an integer of 0 to 3 and A represents -SO₃M or -COOM (in which M represents H, NH₄, Li, Na or K) , or an ether oxygen-containing anionic compound represented by the general formula (2):



wherein x2 represents an integer of 1 to 5, y2 represents an integer of 0 to 10, X represents F or CF₃ and A represents --SO₃M or -COOM (in which M represents H, NH₄, Li, Na or K).

2. (canceled).
3. (canceled).
4. (canceled).

5. (currently amended): The method of purifying the treatment target substance according to ~~claim 4~~ claim 1, wherein the said ~~removing treatment of the fluorine-containing surfactant~~ is carried out at a temperature not lower than 20 °C and at a pressure of not lower than 4 MPa.

6. (currently amended): The method of purifying the treatment target substance according to ~~claim 4~~ claim 1, wherein said ~~the removing treatment of the fluorine-containing surfactant~~ is carried out at a temperature not lower than the critical temperature of carbon dioxide and at a pressure not lower than the critical pressure of carbon dioxide.

7. (canceled).

8. (currently amended): The method of purifying the treatment target substance according to ~~claim 7~~ claim 1, wherein the treatment target substance comprises (i) water and (ii) a nonwater component other than said water (i) containing the fluorine-containing surfactant, said nonwater component (ii) further contains a polymer or contains no polymer, said water (i) is in an amount of more than 0.1 part by mass per 100 parts by mass of said nonwater component {ii}.

9. (previously presented): The method of purifying the treatment target substance according to claim 1, wherein the treatment target substance is an aqueous dispersion comprising a polymer and water.

10. (previously presented): The method of purifying the treatment target substance according to claim 1, wherein the treatment target substance is an aqueous nondispersion containing a polymer and water or a wet powder containing a polymer and water.

11. (previously presented): The method of purifying the treatment target 30 substance according to claim 8, wherein the polymer is a fluoropolymer.

12. (original): The method of purifying the treatment target substance according to claim 11, wherein the fluoropolymer is a polytetrafluoroethylene polymer.

13. (previously presented): The method of purifying the treatment target substance according to claim 1, wherein the treatment target substance further contains water, said treatment target substance substantially contains no polymer.

14. (previously presented): A method of producing an aggregate, which comprises producing an aggregate comprising a polymer using the method of purifying the treatment target substance according to claim 9.

15. (original): A method of preparing a fluorine-containing-surfactant-reduced water, which comprises preparing the fluorine-containing-surfactant-reduced water reduced in fluorine-containing surfactant content using the method of purifying the treatment target substance according to claim 13.

16. (currently amended): A method of producing an aggregate for the production of the aggregate comprising a polymer,

which comprises ~~the step of carrying out a coagulation treatment of~~ coagulating an aqueous dispersion by bringing said aqueous dispersion containing fluorine-containing surfactant and in which a particle comprising said polymer is dispersed into contact and removing at least part of said fluorine-containing surfactant by contacting said aqueous dispersion with an a substance [A] comprising carbon dioxide,

said substance [A] being a gas under standard condition (105 Pa, 0°C), and wherein said polymer is a fluoropolymer.

17. (currently amended): The method of producing the aggregate according to claim 16, wherein ~~the coagulation treatment of the aqueous dispersion~~ said coagulating is carried out at

a specific treatment temperature (T °C) and at a specific treatment pressure (P Pa), the ratio (T/T_c) between said specific treatment temperature (T °C) and the critical temperature (T_c °C) of the substance [A] is not lower than 0.8, the ratio (P/P_c) between said specific treatment pressure (P Pa) and the critical pressure (P_c Pa) of said substance [A] is not lower than 0.8.

18. (original): The method of producing the aggregate according to claim 17, wherein the specific treatment temperature (T) is not lower than the critical temperature (T_c) of the substance [A], the specific treatment pressure (P) is not lower than the critical pressure (P_c) of said substance [A].

19. (canceled).

20. (currently amended): The method of producing the aggregate according to ~~claim 19~~ claim 16, wherein the fluoropolymer is a polytetrafluoroethylene polymer.